

Washington, DC - This afternoon the United States House of Representatives passed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, comprehensive energy legislation which will take steps towards reducing American dependence on foreign oil, lower energy costs, grow our economy, and address global warming concerns. The bill passed with a bipartisan majority by a vote of 235-181.

"This bill's passage signals an important step in what will be a long journey towards achieving energy independence in America," said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20). "The ambitious policies laid out in this legislation send an important message to Americans regarding this Congress's commitment to revamping our nation's energy policy. While this bill is not perfect, for it lacks incentives to encourage continued production of traditional fuel sources that will be necessary to guide us through the historic transition in transportation energy sources, it does signal significant progress with several landmark achievements," he added.

Specifically, the legislation mandates an increase in fuel efficiency standards of vehicles to 35 miles per gallon by the year 2020. This increase in efficiency standards, the first in thirty years, will ultimately save Americans \$700 to \$1000 annually on gas with \$22 billion in net annual savings in the year 2020. In addition, by diversifying our nation's energy portfolio, the bill will create new jobs and strengthen our economy by encouraging, through tax incentives, the creation of a renewable energy industry.

"The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 takes bold steps to diversify our energy portfolio while ensuring that American jobs and industry lead the charge towards our nation's energy independent future. I'm confident that this bill will serve as a catalyst for ongoing efforts to address our nation's energy policy in the future with practical solutions," said Gonzalez.

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